

RONALD COLMAN MOURNED

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Ronald Colman, veteran British-born actor who has been among the top film stars for three decades, died yesterday in St. Francis Hospital, Santa Barbara, at the age of 67.

Death was attributed to a virus lung infection, which had plagued the suave, silver-haired actor for some time. He was taken ill again Saturday at his San Ysidro Ranch home in Montecito and succumbed at 5 a.m. yesterday.

At his bedside was his actress-wife, Benita Hume, who has played opposite him as the college president's wife in Colman's most recent venture, the Halls of Ivy television series.

He also leaves their 13-year-old daughter Juliet.

Funeral Services

The body was taken to the Welch-Ryce Associates Mortuary in Santa Barbara pending funeral services at 3 p.m. tomorrow in All Saints By the Sea Episcopal Church in Montecito. Dr. George J. Hall, rector, will officiate.

Colman had been troubled with fibrosis of the lung dating back to a pneumonia attack during World War I. He apparently never fully recovered from a lung infection which kept him in St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica, for three weeks in March of last year.

He had been living quietly in recent years on the San Ysidro Ranch, which he owned jointly with Al Weingand. In fact, he shunned fanfare and lived the life of a cultured English gentleman throughout his brilliant career.

Academy Award Film

As the star of some 100 motion pictures, Colman was at or near the top of Hollywood salary brackets. He was best known for his roles in the romantic classics.

Curiously the picture for which he won the Academy

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CAREER ENDED.—Ronald Colman, long-time film star, is dead at 67.

Ronald Colman's Career Spanned Three Decades



PARTNERS—Actor Ronald Colman, who died in Santa Barbara yesterday of a lung ailment, is shown with his wife Demita, his costar in the television comedy series "Halls of Ivy," which cast him in the role of a college president.

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COLMAN DEATH

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Award as the best actor of 1947, "A Double Life," was not a big box-office hit. He also was nominated for an Oscar for "Random Harvest" in 1942.

Among Colman's leading pictures were "Lost Horizon," "A Tale of Two Cities," "Prisoner of Zenda," "The Late George Apley," "Beau Geste," "Arrowsmith" and "Clive of India."

Although recognized as one of the all-time great actors in filmdom, Colman probably was best known for his debonair manner and halting British speech which became a trade-mark imitated by nearly all impressionists.

Gravitated to Theater

Born Feb. 9, 1891, in the little town of Richmond, Surrey, Eng., Colman at first wanted to become an engineer. After serving two years in the trenches of World War I, he tried several jobs and finally gravitated to the theater.

His first part was in a dramatic sketch which toured England as a feature of the "varieties," equivalent of American vaudeville. More important stage roles followed and an occasional job in movies.

He recalled that his first motion picture was a two-reel comedy which, "thank heaven, was never released."

Walk-on Parts

Feeling that America offered better opportunities, Colman landed in New York in 1920 with \$57 in cash, three clean collars, two letters of introduction—and his British accent.

After haunting Manhattan agencies and production offices, he finally made his American stage debut with three walk-on parts in "The Dauntless Three," starring Robert Warwick. Two years of extra work and small parts followed, including a seven-

month tour with Fay Bainter in "East Is West."

His big break came when he got an important supporting role in the Shubert production of "La Tendresse," starring Ruth Chatterton and Henry Miller. Screen Director Henry King saw Colman and signed him for the leading male role opposite Lillian Gish in the film, "The White Sister."

Immediate Hit

He was an immediate hit and a star from then on. He became Hollywood's romantic hero, stepping into the shoes of Rudolph Valentino and John Gilbert.

The pictures rolled out—"Romola," "The Dark Angel," "Lady Windermere's Fan," "Kiki," "Her Sister From Paris," "The Magic Flame," "The Night of Love," "The Winning of Barbara Worth," "Leatherface," "The Rescue."

Along the way Colman survived two crises that felled many a lesser actor—the coming of the talking picture and advancing age. His voice was tailor-made for sound, and he retained an agelessness enabling him to play romantic roles well past middle age.

Passes Sound Barrier

He slipped through the sound barrier when he created Bulldog Drummond, a cinema character that became one of the greatest drawing cards of its time. The pictures kept coming—"Devil May Care," "The Unholy Garden," "Raffles," "Under Two Flags," "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo," "If I Were King," "The Light That Failed," "The Talk of the Town," and "Kismet."

After his award-winning performance in "A Double Life," Colman played only one full-length role, in

"Champagne for Caesar." Last year he appeared in the episodic "Story of Mankind" and he had a brief scene in "Around the World in 80 Days" as a train conductor in India.

The Halls of Ivy series had a successful run on radio before the television version was made.

Colman was first married in 1919 to British Stage Actress Thelma Ray. They separated in 1924 but were not divorced until 1934. He married Miss Hume in 1938 in a quiet ceremony at the San Ysidro Ranch.

Disdaining Hollywood cafe society, Colman had only a few intimate friends. He enjoyed poker games with the boys, small dinner parties where he entertained with card tricks, and painting, photography, gardening, golf, boating and swimming.